

PITTSFIELD'S HAUNTED HOUSE



In every community, it seems there is a house that gets the label, 'haunted'. So it is with this house on Gill Hill, southeast of Cobb Road off County Route 49. It was a large house, built by Mark Gill for his wife, Martha. From the time the Gill family occupied it, and well beyond, different stories have been circulated, some recalled by people today. There was the story of the peddler going there, who disappeared, never to be seen again. Then, there was the man calling to court the daughter, only to be literally 'fed to the hogs!' And again, it was told of someone being buried under the stone in front of the fireplace . . . perhaps, the peddler! When someone else lived there for a short time, they reported curtains blowing and doors opening on their own. When the house was empty, lights were seen going on and off for no reason, and ghosts walking around.

It is said that the house had flour bins large enough for any child to walk into. There was a time when someone was trying to sell the house. Two boys were in the house while it was being shown and, knowing they were not supposed to be there, hid in the huge flour bins

which still had some flour in them. Fearing they were going to be caught, they jumped out and ran away so fast they were described as 'ghosts'. No matter, it was scary enough to those children who had been told the stories that when passing by in a wagon, they made sure they were out of sight of any ghosts, floured or real, that might be watching.

Lena Cobb told that her grandparents, Russell and Emily Cobb, rented the house for at least a winter after the Gills were gone. There were strange noises heard while they lived there that may have been animal sounds, the shutters creaked horribly but they never saw any 'haunts'.

After they were gone, Lena and her sister, Emma Webb, remembered going there to have a picnic outside. Being curious, their father allowed them to explore one area of the house. He considered the rest of the house unsafe. They saw a back room that had been used for keeping a large dog. Trying to get out, the dog had dug the door badly with its nails. They saw the large flour bins, too.

The house burned down and now there is only a trace of a foundation and 3 Gill family gravestones to mark its existence . . . Mark Gill on one of them, his wife, Martha, on another, and their 2 sons, Lawrence and Mark, on a single stone.

As people will do over the years, these bits of facts were enlarged upon until the building became known as 'The Haunted House of Pittsfield'.